MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 DECEMBER 1983

Lebanon

U.S. Casualties, Air Raids — Eight U.S. Marines were killed and two others were wounded when their positions near Beirut airport were shelled on the evening of 4 December, Beirut radio reported. The attack on Marine positions followed a U.S. air raid on Syrian positions north of the Beirut-Damascus Highway during which two U.S. planes were shot down, according to Jerusalem radio. A Syrian military spokesman cited by Damascus radio claimed that Syrian air defenses downed three American aircraft, resulting in the capture of one U.S. pilot. Two Syrians were killed and eight were injured in the raid, he said, and one vehicle and an ammunition depot were hit.

Voice of Lebanon radio, reporting the incident, announced that SAM's were fired at F-14's overflying positions bombed by Israeli aircraft earlier on 3 December. Israel's air raid that day was directed against "terrorist headquarters and positions" in the Bhamdun-Sawfar area, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. All Israeli planes returned safely with the pilots reporting direct hits on their targets. A Syrian military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Damascus radio, said the Israeli planes bombed Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) positions but were "confronted" and forced away by Syrian air defenses. The Damascus daily *AL-BA'TH*, reviewed by the radio, viewed the Israeli raid as "the beginning of the measures Washington and Tel Aviv agreed to carry out against Syria," and cited Lebanese reports that U.S. planes flew cover for the Israeli aircraft.

Other Security Developments — Ten people were killed and about 100 were wounded as a result of an explosion in a Beirut garage early on 5 December, Beirut radio reported. Citing official sources, the Voice of Lebanon said the explosion was caused by a car bomb.

In another development, a PSP official announced on behalf of PSP leader Walid Junblatt that the siege of Christians in Dayr al-Qamar has been lifted and that all civilians and militia of the Phalangist Lebanese Forces will be allowed to leave the town, Beirut radio reported on 4 December. Nevertheless, PSP and Phalangist militia continued fighting in the Al-Kharrub area, southwest of Dayr al-Qamar, the radio said.

Reaction to U.S. Raid — Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan described the 4 December U.S. air raid as a "serious indication" and reiterated that the Lebanese "denounce and reject everything that turns" Lebanon into an arena for conflict, according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, on Al-Wazzan's instructions, the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. ambassador and "briefed him on the implications" of the raid, the radio added. Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in a message to the UN secretary general and Security Council chairman characterized the raid as an "escalated military move" that constitutes a "serious development in the region and a threat to world peace and security," Damascus radio reported.

The Saudi paper *AL-MADINAH* said the raid pushed events toward "a new stage of grave escalation" that would presage the undermining of all peace efforts and efforts at moderation in the Middle East, while *AL-YAWM* viewed it as "vivid and certain evidence" that the U.S.-Israeli agreement is being implemented, according to Riyadh radio. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat "strongly condemned" the raid and expressed his strong support for Syria against U.S. and Israeli air raids, AFP stated. Damascus radio cited a DFLP-PFLP statement describing the raid as a "new qualitative development" and a "serious escalation."

Political Developments — President Amin al-Jumayyil returned to Beirut on 5 December after his visit to Washington, Beirut radio revealed. In a predeparture statement in Washington broadcast by the radio, the president said the visit brought about a strong U.S.-Lebanese working partnership with the establishment of a "high-level joint committee" to work for the implementation of the two countries' common interests and objectives. In an earlier news conference, also broadcast by the radio, Foreign Minister Elie Salim expressed satisfaction with the program worked out during the visit.

PLO Affairs

Intermittent exchanges of fire and clashes continued between forces supporting and opposing 'Arafat around Tripoli throughout 2-5 December, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, in remarks reported by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio, 'Arafat confirmed that Tripoli was shelled from positions controlled by Syria and alleged that these attacks were in preparation for an advance into the city.

Regarding negotiations on 'Arafat's withdrawal from Tripoli, opposition spokesman Mahmud al-Labadi reaffirmed his organization's objection to any Palestinian fighters departing with 'Arafat. Speaking to the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ*, Al-Labadi maintained that the opposition is "cooperating fully" with the Coordination Committee headed by former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Meanwhile, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan told Riyadh television that he was in Riyadh for discussions aimed at securing a safe withdrawal from Tripoli to the sea and averting "bloody retaliation" during the withdrawal process.

In another development, President al-Jumayyil objected to 'Arafat's request that the United Nations oversee the evacuation from Tripoli, asserting that Lebanon "opposes any solution in which the government is not a major participant," according to Beirut radio. Sources cited by Jerusalem radio insisted that Israel is "categorically opposed" to having the United Nations help in the Palestinian evacuation.

AFP cited 'Arafat as saying that after leaving Tripoli he would like to reopen discussions with Jordan on the basis of the plan worked out at Fes summit last year, though his first stops after leaving the city will be his political headquarters in Tunis and his military headquarters in North Yemen.

Israel

Agreements With U.S. — In the wake of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington, Israel and the United States are working on a joint document to formalize their cooperation and U.S. support for Israel in opposing Soviet activity, according to *HA'ARETZ*. However, Jerusalem radio reported that the two parties are "finding it difficult" to agree on a formulation for the document, as the United States wants to minimize the degree to which the agreements are binding, while Israel wants to emphasize this aspect.

On Lebanon, the United States and Israel agreed on full coordination and a "firm policy" against the Syrians and terrorists under their protection, *MA'ARIV* correspondents stated. In this connection, the two countries decided to "take advantage" of a weakening Syrian stand in Lebanon to increase pressure on Syria and agreed that Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon should not be discussed in the absence of Syrian willingness to discuss a parallel withdrawal, the paper added. A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio "categorically denied" that a secret U.S.-Israeli agreement against Syria and the USSR was concluded during Shamir's visit.

Arab Reaction — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali expressed Egypt's "dissatisfaction" with the U.S.-Israeli agreement and said it does not serve the cause of peace and represents a bias toward Israel, MENA reported. Similarly, President Husni Mubarak, in a statement reported by Cairo radio, viewed the agreement as "an obstacle on the road to peace" and opined that it would anger moderates and "those that have good relations with the United States." However, Mubarak noted that the motives for the agreement are not yet known and stated that Egypt is waiting to find out from the United States what is behind it.

In an interview with *THE NEW YORK TIMES* reported by Amman radio, King Husayn characterized the agreement as "some sort of reward to Israel for rejecting President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative" and continuing its settlement policies and its occupation of southern Lebanon, adding that the Reagan administration was not sufficiently firm with Israel during the talks. Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, said in a statement reported by SPA that the agreement is the biggest threat to the Arab and Islamic nation today and wondered what justification the United States, "a country which advocates world peace and presents peace plans in the Middle East," had for allying itself with Israel.

Syria

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that 150 Soviet and 60 GDR experts have departed Syria following that country's decision to reduce the number of foreign experts in the country. No report on the subject has been monitored from Syrian sources.

Iran-Iraq War

In a statement reported by INA, an Iraqi military spokesman warned the Iranian Government that if it continues to shell Iraqi towns and civilian establishments, Iraq will "be forced to reply strongly by striking at selected targets." An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by IRNA contended that the charge that Iran had shelled civilian areas was false and asserted that Iraq had made it to "justify its intended shelling of residential quarters in Iran."

Speaking in an interview with the Cairo paper *AL-AHRAM* transmitted by INA, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn asserted that, had Iran been able to close the Strait of Hormuz, it would have done so "before now" and that "many" Iranian officials realize that Iran would be harmed more than any other state by such a move. He added that the strait could not be closed for long because the world has vital interests in it and if it were closed "world states, other than those of the region," would intervene.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Reportage on Islamic Conference Organization Meetings

Senior Officials Arrive

BK0306S4 Dhaka BSS in English 0640 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 3 BSS — Over hundred senior officials of the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] member countries and from its Jidda Secretariat arrived here yesterday for the two-day preparatory official-level meeting which begins tomorrow.

The official level meeting will be followed by the five-day 14th conference of the Islamic Foreign Ministers (ICFM) from Tuesday (December 6).

Officials so far arrived are from Algeria, Bahrain, Cameroon, Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Niger, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierre Leone, Sudan, Somalia, Turkey, Tunisia and Yemen Arab Republic.

Yesterday's arrivals included foreign secretaries of Pakistan and Turkey and two assistant secretary generals of OIC Secretariat. More senior officials are expected to reach later today.

Agenda Discussed

BK0407?0 Dhaka BSS in English 0700 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Dhaka Dec 4 (BSS) — A two-day meeting of the officials of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the member states began here this morning to discuss the provisional agenda for the 14th Islamic foreign ministers' conference beginning on Tuesday.

The official level meeting will also record the work programme for the conference.

Meanwhile more than 200 officials and delegates to the foreign ministers conference have already arrived in the city. Delegates who have already arrived are from: — Uganda, Bahrain, Senegal, Iran, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Syria, Tunisia, Algeria, Turkey and Cameroon.

Ministers Arrive

BK0409?0 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Islamic foreign ministers have started arriving in Dhaka to take part in the 14th OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] foreign ministers conference beginning on Tuesday. The first to arrive in the capital this morning include the Upper Volta foreign minister, Mr Hama Arba Diallo, and Sierra Leone foreign minister, Mr Abdullah A. Osman.

Meanwhile, the meeting of the senior officials of the OIC member countries began in Dhaka this morning to prepare the agenda for presentation to the plenary session of the foreign ministers conference. The Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr Ataul Karim, is presidiung the meeting.

Turkish Cypriot Arrival Noted

BK0409?5 Dhaka BSS in English 0727 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 4 (BSS) — The foreign minister of Turkish Cypriot Republic of Northern Cyprus, Mr Atakol arrived here today to attend the 5-day Islamic conference of foreign ministers beginning here on Tuesday. Foreign minister A.R.S. Doha received the Mr Atakol at the airport.

Habib Chatti, Delegates Arrive

BK050903 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] secretary general and foreign ministers of another six Islamic countries arrived in Dhaka this morning to attend the 14th Islamic foreign ministers conference beginning tomorrow. The foriegn minister, Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha, received them at the airport. The OIC secretary general, Mr Habib Chatti, on his arrival expressed the hope that the Dhaka conference of Islamic ministers would pave the way for further solidarity among the Muslim community.

The foreign ministers who arrived this morning are: —[all names as heard] Mr Idi Ummer Rou of Niger, Mr 'Ali Amaiyah of South Yemen, Mr Ahmad al-Asbahi of North Yemen, Mr Abdurrahman Barre of Somalia, Mr Said Kafe of Comoros, and Mr Abdul Wahed of Morocco. Besides, the industries minister of Djibouti, Fahmy Ahmed, and the Sudanese state minister for foreign affairs, Mr Mustafa Madani, also arrived today.

Ataul Karim Opens Meeting

BK041703 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The Islamic foreign ministers have started arriving in Dhaka for the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] conference beginning on Tuesday. The first to arrive in the capital today included the Sierra Leone's foreign minister, Mr Abdullah A. Osman, the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the Maldives foreign minister, Mr Fatullah Jameel. They were received at the airport by the foreign minister, Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha.

Meanwhile, senior officials of the OIC countries ended their meeting in Dhaka today. They met for 6 hours in two sessions. An official spokesman briefing newsmen at the media center of the conference venue said the senior officials adopted a draft agenda for the conference. It will be submitted to the foreign ministers' meeting for their consideration and approval. The spokesman said the officials also assigned functions of the main committees of the conference. Organizational work of the conference was also finalized at the meeting.

In reply to a question, he said the Turkish Cypriots have been given observer status at the OIC meet and their representatives are already in the capital. A large number of foreign and local journalists were present at the briefing. Our diplomatic cor

respondent says almost all the OIC member states were represented at the meeting. The Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr A.H.S. Ataul Karim, took over as chairman of the meeting from his predecessor, Mr (Belaz Gokov) of Niger.

In his opening speech, Mr Karim said much of the glory of the Muslims has been achieved because they themselves successfully confronted challenges with unity, courage, faith, and determination. He stressed the need for unity at times of crisis. The Islamic ummah [community] is threatened by various forces which attempted to jeopardize our peace and stability. The Bangladesh foreign secretary said Muslims around the world are now engaged in a grim battle against poverty and underdevelopment. He, however, expressed the hope that we will triumph against all odds provided we remain steadfast in our resolve for the achievement of the desired goal.

Protest Lodged With India on Calcutta Events
BK050740 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Bangladesh has lodged a strong protest with the Indian Government against the unpleasant events which are taking place in Calcutta. An official spokesman said in Dhaka yesterday that such incidents and statements in India constitute an open interference in the internal affairs of Bangladesh. He said the Indian high commissioner in Bangladesh was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and a strong protest was lodged. The Bangladesh high commissioner in New Delhi has also been instructed to lodge a similar protest against the incident.

The spokesman referred to incidents of bomb throwing inside the Bangladesh deputy high commission in Calcutta and other events during the last few days, and regretted that such events should have taken place immediately following the Commonwealth summit in New Delhi and on the eve of the 14th Islamic foreign ministers conference in Dhaka.

BSS Reports on Election Schedule Announcement
BK040709 Dhaka BSS in English 0700 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Dhaka Dec 4 (BSS) — The elections to the country's 77 town councils will be held on February 11 next year, the Election Commission announced Saturday. The polls to the village level union council will begin on December 27. The local bodies polls will later be followed by the presidential election in May and parliamentary elections in November, 1984, according to the earlier announced schedule.

Dhaka Schools To Reopen; Curfew Hours Fixed
BK031553 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] All schools of Dhaka metropolitan area will reopen tomorrow. An official announcement in Dhaka today said the colleges and the college sections in schools will, however, reopen on the 12th of this month.

An official announcement in Dhaka said there will be no curfew in the capital from 0500 to midnight tomorrow.

Delhi Reports Agitation Spread to New Areas
BK030921 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] In Bangladesh, armed police and troops are reported to have moved into several towns yesterday as agitation against the martial law regime spread to new areas.

Radio Bangladesh said that there was no curfew in the capital Dhaka and the eastern port towns during the day. However, night curfew continued in Dhaka and Chittagong.

All educational institutions in Dhaka have been closed indefinitely. The Rajshahi Engineering College was also closed yesterday. This was the second engineering institute to be closed following antigovernment violence in the capital.

Meanwhile, delegates started arriving in Dhaka under heavy security guard for the conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic countries beginning on Tuesday.

Reports say that the president of the Bangladesh National Awami Party, Mr Muzaffar Ahmed, and some others were arrested.

Cites Arrests
BK031254 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] In Bangladesh, several arrests have been reported following antimartial law demonstrations earlier this week. In the districts, leaders and workers of the 22 political parties agitating for the end of martial law have been detained.

The curfew continued in Dhaka and Chittagong from midnight to 0500 this morning. Section 144 has been imposed in many towns including Rajshahi, Bogra, and Shirajganj. In Dhaka, no untoward incident has been reported since Monday's violent clashes.

AFP Describes Protests, Arrests of Political Leaders
BK031113 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 3 Dec 83

[By Richard Breeze]

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 3 (AFP) — Security forces have rounded up 37 political leaders in Chittagong following violent antigovernment demonstrations in the southeastern port city earlier this week, reliable sources said today. A number of local political leaders have also been arrested in district towns, other sources said.

Protests against the military regime of Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad started Monday in Dhaka and spread to Chittagong and at least seven of the country's 21

districts. According to unofficial figures, five people have been killed andmore than 400 injured in the violence which has seen security forces fire on crowds in both Dhaka and Chittagong.

At least 238 people, including prominent political figures, have been arrested following the protests, according to various sources. Other people have been detained for breaking curfews clamped on Dhaka and Chittagong following the violence. A police spokesman here told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that "about 40 people were held for curfew violations," in Dhaka last night. "They have been released," he said.

Reliable sources told AFP that security forces arrested 37 political leaders in Chittagong following the protests there Wednesday.

Police fired on crowds on two separate occasions saying they were trying to break into banks. Three people were injured, police said. Unofficial reports said one person was killed.

Meanwhile, a number of political leaders have been rounded up in district towns, said sources close to the 22 political parties opposing the military regime. The sources could provide no overall figures but said that six political figures had been held in the southern coastal town of Noakhali. "Local political leaders have also been held in other district towns," the sources told AFP adding that tension was still running high in some districts.

There were reports here of protest demonstrations yesterday in the southern town of Barisal. No details were available.

All demonstrations have been outlawed under the blanket ban on all political activity imposed after the bloody clashes in Dhaka.

The government has so far admitted to having arrested 142 people, but has said that only three major political figures are among them. They are Begun Khaleda Zia, leader of the former ruling party — the Bangladesh National Party — Sheikh Hasina Wajed, head of the Awami League, and Mozaffar Ahmed of the pro-Moscow National Awami Party. They are in "protective custody," officials said.

Opposition sources said three other prominent political figures had been held in Dhaka. Many political cadres had gone into hiding in the capital and elsewhere.

Immediately after the clash Monday, the government said that 139 people had been detained [word indistinct] involvement in the demonstrations. There were reports in informed circles here today that they could be put on trial. Informed sources said that 50 people had been detained in the southwestern town of Faridpur after protests on Tuesday.

Dhaka was quiet today but still patrolled by troops. Security was expected to be tightened considerably when foreign ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference start arriving tomorrow for a meeting scheduled to open Tuesday.

The curfew here was cut back today to five hours starting at midnight. Chittagong was also under a midnight to 5 a.m. curfew, according to the latest government announcement.

'Pakistani Spy Ring' Reportedly Uncovered

BK030802 Hong Kong AFP in English 0753 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 3 (AFP) — The Indian border security force has broken up a Pakistani spy ring in the Moslem-dominated Jammu and Kashmir State with the arrest of 69 people, a published report said today. *THE STATESMAN* newspaper quoting an official spokesman said that the spy ring consisted of 12 small groups that were collecting information on Indian defence buildup in the sensitive border state. The arrested included five Pakistani nationals, 11 residents of the Kashmir State, which is under Pakistan control, and 53 Indian nationals, it said. This was the first time in recent years that so many people had been arested for alleged spying in one operation.

The spokesman told the newspaper that arms bearing U.S. and Chinese marking were recovered from the arrested people. However, there was no independent confirmation of the report.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir. One erupted soon after independence from the British in 1948 and another in 1965. Both India and Pakistan claim all of Kashmir, but in effect they share the state.

Report on Kashmir Training Camps Denied

BK031603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] The education minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr (Mohammad Sabir), said no training camps for Punjab extremists have been organized in the state. Addressing a news conference in Jammu today, Mr (Sabir) stated that the state government will not allow anything to happen which goes against the national interest. Mr (Sabir) made these remarks in connection with the home minister's statement made in the Lok Sabha yesterday in regard to the training camps. He claimed that these were in fact religious camps. According to reports available with the state government no military training was given there.

Congress-I Party Workers Arrested in Kashmir

BK050704 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] According to reports reaching Srinagar, several people were injured when the police resorted to baton charge to stop a Congress-I demonstration against the chief minister. Later the state Congress-I chief, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, said in Srinagar that 50 workers of his party were arrested by the police.

20 Injured, 34 Arrested in Delhi Clash

BK031259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] About 20 persons, including a dozen policemen, were injured in a clash between two rival Akali groups at Gurdwara Shishganj in Delhi today. The police used tear gas shells to disperse the violent mobs. According to official sources, 34 persons have been arrested. The situation is reported to be under control.

AFP Report

BK030708 Hong Kong AFP in English 0657 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 3 (AFP) — Rival Sikh groups clashed here today over possession of a Sikh temple, forcing police to fire 65 tear gas shells and order a general alert, police said.

At least 25 people were taken into custody and the city administration ordered police to alert all their posts near the historic Sisgahj Gurudwara (temple) in the old Delhi district. Police said they had been asked to take "all (necessary) actions" to check any escalation of violence.

Trouble started when a faction of the Sikh political party, Akali Dal, took possession of a section of the temple. This faction led by H.S. Manchanda is said to back Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The faction supporting the Sikh demand for greater political autonomy for the rich northwestern farming state of Punjab then clashed with pro-Gandhi Sikhs inside the temple.

Police said that soda water bottles, clubs and stone missiles were used. But the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency quoting eyewitnesses as saying that the two factions used guns and that at least 15 rounds were fired.

Several people sustained injuries, but their number was not immediately known.

Meanwhile, armed police have descended on the busy market area and shop owners have been ordered to down their shutters. Although majority of Sikhs support the Akali Dal, which is spearheading the autonomy drive in Punjab, a smaller faction oppose the demand and support Mrs. Gandhi.

Carrying of Firearms Banned in Amritsar

BK050658 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] In Amritsar, the district magistrate has banned carrying of firearms in the entire district for 2 months. The ban covers carrying of licensed firearms, ammunition, explosive substances, acids, and other inflammable articles beside lethal weapons. Police and military personnel on official duty and the Sikhs carrying Kirpans [knives] as religious symbol have however been exempted. The district magistrate said the ban has been imposed as a precautionary measure to avoid any violent incident in the district.

Meanwhile, intensive police patrolling is continuing in the area around a religious place near Amritsar where some unidentified miscreants attempted sacrilege on Saturday night. The incident has been widely condemned by various religious and political leaders.

Home Minister Reacts to Threat by Sikh Leader

BK050941 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, assured the Lok Sabha today that the government will take all necessary steps to deal with crime and instigation of crime wherever and by whomsoever it may be committed. He also said that all citizens, irrespective of their caste, community, or religion, will have full protection to participate in the civic life in any part of the country.

Mr Sethi was making a statement in the house on the reported threat to a community in Punjab by Mr Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. He told the members that according to the information received from the state government, cases have already been registered against him. Mr Sethi described Mr Bhindranwale's statement as most unfortunate. He said it is deplorable that an incident should have been made a pretext for ventilating communal hatred and inciting mass murder by a person who had strived to seek protection for himself within the sanctuary of a holy shrine in the hope that he can thereby escape all consequences of his deeds.

Mr Bhindranwale had referred to an incident at Churu in his statement. Mr Sethi said that according to Rajasthan government, a small portion of one of the doors of a building under construction had been damaged. The matter is under investigation. It had officially been reported that there is no organization known as Jai Hindu Sangh in Rajasthan.

Soon after the home minister's statement, several members demanded the arrest of Mr Bhindranwale. They complained that there is no indication of any further action in the statement. For nearly an hour, the house was plunged into an acrimonious debate. While the opposition alleged that the government seems to be helpless in the face of Mr Bhindranwale's intransigence, the ruling party members accused the opposition of supporting the Akali agitation for political reasons. Opposition members said that the government should not look upon the problem in Punjab as only a law and order question. They should seek a political solution.

The speaker, Mr Balram Jhakar, said that there is no disagreement in the house on the question of security and promoting communal harmony. No one who hurts the sentiments of any religious groups can claim to be a saint. He told the agitated members that the home minister, who was present in the house, had noted their views.

Mr Sethi intervened to clarify that police had not entered the Shishganj Gurdwara in Delhi. They had only gone to the office of the DGPC [Delhi Guardwara Prabandhak Committee] adjacent to the Gurdwara.

Iran's Velayati Stops Over in New Delhi

LD051153 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 5, IRNA — Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on his way to Dhaka, Bangladesh, stopped briefly in New Delhi at noon today and held talks with the secretary general of the Non-Aligned Movement, Natwar Singh. In addition, the foreign affairs minister met and conferred with the first secretary of the Indian External Affairs Ministry.

Velayati left Tehran this morning heading a delegation to attend the 14th session of the foreign ministers of the Islamic conference organisation, scheduled for Dec. 6, in Dhaka.

Present in the meeting at the New Delhi airport were the Iranian ambassador to New Delhi, Hasan As'ad-Lari, the Indian ambassador to Tehran, Akbar Mirza Khaleeli as well as high-ranking officials of the Indian External Affairs Ministry. Issues discussed included the Non-Aligned Movement and subjects of mutual interest.

The Iranian delegation left New Delhi for Dhaka after holding noon prayers at the New Delhi airport.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Sermon

LD021318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The revolutionary and ever watchful people of Tehran took part in the glorious Friday prayers at the University of Tehran, led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his second sermon, referring to Indonesia's refusal to host the session of the Interparliamentary Union because there is a possibility that the regime occupying Jerusalem might be represented in it, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Indonesia for this decision, but added: Nevertheless, we expect a great Muslim country like Indonesia to act more decisively in confronting Israel.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani then praised the speedy and timely decision of the Government of the Islaimc Republic of Iran and six other Islamic countries to combat prostitution on an international scale, the resolution on which was also approved by the UN social committee.

Referring to the forthcoming OPEC conference, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin, addressing the Arab members of OPEC, said: The treason committed against the oil-exporting countries and in the interest of world arrogance by reducing the price of oil by $5 a barrel should be reversed during the next OPEC session, because this reduction cannot be justified on any grounds. In 1 year, the Saudi leaders, the so-called custodians of the two holy shrines, poured $36 billion of their people's money into the pockets of the Western capitalists. By increasing the amount of oil exported and by reducing its price, they committed a great treason but performed a great service for their masters. How can one allow them to commit such crimes! Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani then asked our oil minister to ask the OPEC members at their next conference to restore the former minimum price of oil. He emphasized: We ask friendly countries such as Libya and Algeria to reverse the reduction in the price of oil at the next OPEC session.

Addressing the reactionary Arab regime, the acting Friday imam of Tehran emphasized: If you wish to continue this conspiratorial policy, we have the power to prevent revenue from Persian Gulf oil from being poured into the pockets of the colonialist countries. Increasing the price of oil will be our policy at the next OPEC session; the increase will be a minimum of $5 a barrel of oil.

Referring to the forthcoming Majlis elections, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin invited the nation to take part in the elections in solid ranks: Whoever is interested in the fate of the revolution and the country should not remain indifferent to the elections. Election campaigning should be Islamic and humane and those who wish to engage in publicity by defaming their rivals will prove their ineptitude; it is a sin. If one day the candidates can make use of radio for their campaigning, this too will be done in a just manner. The same principles should be observed when using the press for their campaigns.

Referring to the question of Lebanon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin recording] During the past week, certain things have happened in Lebanon which have become like a nightmare to the world and have given rise to a great deal of fear — of course, for the arrogant of the world— the people of the world are happy. Today we see the realization of something about which we have warned during the past few years. When we talked about the export of revolution, we meant what is happening in Lebanon today. This is how it happens. See what is being done by the Lebanese people! On direct orders from America, the Lebanese Phalangists decided to cut off their relations with us. Of course, we do not want our relations with Lebanon to be severed, for the sake of its people. However, we are not interested in relations with the block-headed Phalange Party. We do not attach much importance to America itself, let alone the Phalangists who are no more than a hair from the body of the American bear. Nevertheless, we rely on the Lebanese people.

However, see what happened in Lebanon when the Phalangists took this decision. It was truly fantastic! We feel that the same wonderful spirit exists among many nations of the world. If the need arises, the same thing will be observed in Pakistan, in Bangladesh, in Saudi Arabia, in Egypt, in Iraq—although there exists a great deal of oppression while in Lebanon the people can still breathe to some extent. Under those conditions, the Lebanese people poured onto the streets, engaged in sit-ins, and said they would not allow the Iranian ambassador to leave. Under those conditions, where a few steps further, there were blood-thirsty American and French troops, the embassy was surrounded by Phalangist executioners— 10 or 15 km further on were blood-thirsty Zionist forces; shells from the American, French, and Israeli fleets could reach our embassy; the fighter-bombers of those satanic powers were flying in the skies of Beirut, breaking the sound barrier; and the leftist forces who are not very much in favor of Islam were not cooperating with us. Under those conditions,waves of people left their destroyed homes and took to the blood-stained streets which were full of broken glass and smashed cars. They marched on the embassy where they protested and engaged in a sitin. They said every one of their houses would be an embassy for Iran. They said they would never forgive the Phalangist government of Lebanon if it implemented that crime.

They said they would be permanently against their government if it closed the Iranian Embassy there. They issued an ultimatum to the Shi'a and Muslim members of the Cabinet that if they did not correct their position they would not be able to engage in any legal steps on behalf of the people. This is what happened in Beirut, not in Ba'albakk. You know what Ba'labakk is like. The Americans and the Israelis would not even be allowed in Tripoli, in Ba'labakk, Sur, Sayda, or in an Nabatiyah. The Israelis who are there are, in fact, captives in the hands of the people who are seemingly under their occupation. This is a very great event. Can you find a precedent for it in history? As far as I know, I have not heard of a government severing its links with another government while its people rush to the other embassy to prevent the ambassador from leaving. When the members of the Iranian

Embassy were going toward the airport, the people lay in front of them in the streets, saying that the cars should drive over them. This is the meaning of the export of the revolution.

From the beginning, we have said that we always talk to nations. We have never been interested, nor will we ever be interested, in friendship with the Lebanese Phalangists. They must cut their relations with us. [Shouts of "God is great" and other slogans] The interesting fact is that all these events happened after the Western powers tried to intimidate the people; when they sent 24 aircraft to bomb Ba'labakk so that they could show the people the consequences of supporting Iran. For God's sake, think and see how much the people have matured, how much the revolution has spread, and how it has won people's hearts that despite all that intimidation and the threats their faith, their activities, and their zest for the revolution have increased. They have implanted fear in the hearts of the Americans and the French. For the first time, America resorted to garbage carts to protect the White House: they surrounded the White House with garbage carts. For the first time, the French closed the gates of the Elysee Palace, completely preventing any cars from entering the palace compound.

Why are they so frightened? They are frightened of the Lebanese people because they have dropped bombs there. How foolish can one be! Those bombs have frightened you so much, but they have incited the Lebanese people and have made them further determined. The events in Lebanon and the movement of the Lebanese people in favor of the Islamic Republic are very meaningful for us, and we believe that if they are allowed then the same thing will happen in Iraq, and in the other countries which I mentioned earlier, not to mention the sparsely populated countries around us. This is how it is. They should come to terms with their nations, and we do not wish for anything else. It is not reasonable that while there are 2 million Muslims in Lebanon and a few hundred thousand Christian Phalangists, that the Phalangists should rule. [end recording]

Radio Iran Reacts

GF031119 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting Friday imam of Tehran and speaker of the Islamic Majlis, in his Friday sermon today repeated threats to close down the Strait of Hormuz. Your attention is drawn to a talk prepared by one of our writers for you. Please listen:

Hashemi-Rafsanjani wants the international terrorists to carry on the bomb explosions in other parts of the world also. Hashemi-Rafsanjani says that if the headquarters of the American, French, and Israeli soldiers, which are being guarded very carefully, can be blown up with such ease and with the loss of only one life, then this act should be carried out in other places also.

These ridiculous words are uttered to show the might and strength of the regime. Such insane words are, in fact,signs of helplessness and desperation of a regime. Why do the representatives of the Islamic Republic want the international terrorists to carry out Beirut-like explosions in other parts of the world? Can the life of a human being be considered worthless? What school of thought is this? What kind of a system does nothing but carry out bombings, destruction, and terrorism? It does nothing but spread injury and unrest wherever it can, without any consideration. Violence, in whatever shape it appears, is a sign of fear and incapability and an expression of distress and ineffectiveness. There is no doubt that the regime of the mullahs with its day and night praise for the outcome of the acts of terrorism, and with its encouragement for terrorism and support of the infrastructure of terrorist actions, only shows its helplessness and weakness. This regime reacts to blows it has received through terrorism and the more this regime tries to escape from its self-made whirlpool, the more it involves itself in acts of terrorism.

In no corner of the world and at no geographical point, has terrorism achieved victory. Terrorism has become a victim of its (?nature). The terrorism of Khomeyni and Hashemi-Rafsanjani is no exception to this rule. We will see, we will see.

'Thousands' of Lebanese See Off Diplomats

GF021004 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] After meeting at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut the day before yesterday, thousands of destitute Lebanese Muslims saw off the diplomats of Muslim Iran. They chanted slogans of "God is great" and "There is only one God" and affirmed that relations between Muslims and Iran are based on Islamic spirit and creed and jihad. They condemned the Amin al-Jumayyil regime for severing relations with Muslim Iran.

One clergyman from the Lebanese clergymen's group made a speech in which he said: The Islamic revolution in Lebanon and its links with the Islamic Revolution in Iran will not perish with the severance of diplomatic relations; they will continue until final victory is achieved. He asserted that the house of every Lebanese Muslim is an embassy for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

After the ceremonies, a huge march was held, in which great numbers of Muslims participated. The marchers proceeded to Beirut airport to see off the Iranian diplomats. After reaching there, the diplomats were informed that all flights had been canceled due to shelling of the airport. That is why the Iranian diplomats returned to the embassy building, accompanied by thousands of Lebanese Muslims well-wishers.

Oil Minister Comments on OPEC, Oil Prices

LD031858 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] In a press conference today with domestic and foreign correspondents, Petroleum Minister Gharazi commented on the forthcoming OPEC session to be held next Wednesday [7 December]:

At the session we are going to propose setting the OPEC oil price at $34 pe. barrel. Saudi Arabia's extra production is damaging to oil-producing countries, including Iran. On instructions from our country's political officials, we declare to the oil-producing

countries that if they try to promote the policy of price slashing by increasing their production, to create difficulties for the Islamic Republic of Iran, then — as it has often demonstrated in other instances — Iran will undertake any appropriate action to safeguard the Islamic Republic.

Referring to the Iranian oil production quota of 2.4 million barrels, Gharazi said: As far as we are concerned, the essential issue is the price of oil. Quotas are a secondary issue.

The press conference was also attended by Kheradmand, under secretary at the Oil Ministry and the Iranian candidate for the post of OPEC secretary general.

The petroleum minister said: It is our legitimate right to hold the post of OPEC secretary general for this session. Under no circumstances will we accept this right being denied to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: Some producers are exerting pressure on Iran, aimed at preventing the appointment of an Iranian secretary general. However, we will continue to stand firm on this issue.

Commenting on Iran's stance at the OPEC ministerial session, Gharazi told our correspondent:

[Begin recording][Gharazi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At the previous OPEC conference in London, we agreed to a total production of 17.5 million barrels per day for the whole of OPEC, in order to protect the market and OPEC. Iran's quota was set at 2.4 million barrels per day, providing Saudi Arabia's quota did not exceed 5 million barrels per day. For the past few months, Saudi Arabia has been producing more than 5 million barrels: It actually produces 6 million barrels per day. In response to the Islamic Republic's protest at Saudi Arabia's high level of production, the Saudi oil minister produced a direct report. As for Kuwait, its oil minister confirmed that it too had increased its production because it is unable to reach its ceiling [as heard]. The situation in the Persian Gulf clearly demonstrates that Iraq is unable to reach the level of production assigned to it, that is, 1.2 million barrels per day. Saudi Arabia states that it is producing 1 million barrel per day more because of Iraq.

It is also quite evident that the Islamic Republic of Iran has refused to accept the price of $29. We believe that if the 17.5 million barrels per day ceiling is fixed and if no other countries violate this ceiling, then prices would automatically rise. However, because these mammonists in the Persian Gulf are tools in the hands of the United States — this archsatan and mammonist — they are directly involved in undertaking actions against the interests of oppressed oil-producing nations. Our Islamic aspirations and the aspirations of our oppressed people oblige us to resist this process. The price of oil must be set at $34; the market is capable of supporting this. This is why Iran is asking for $34 — a specified production ceiling and a price that could be absorbed by the market. You know that when the oil price was reduced from $34 to $29, the price of oil products on the consumer market did not fall, rather this difference is being pocketed by the big governments, such as the United States and its associates. In this regard, we will apply all the pressure we can; we will try to bring prices up to their earlier level so that we can defend the rights of the oppressed people.

Concerning the post of secretary general, as we have stated in other sessions OPEC's constitution clearly shows that it is Iran's turn. We have considered our legal stands and corresponded with all the 13 OPEC countries, that is, we have already forwarded to them everything concerning the legal aspect, including the relevant information, the constitution and the relevant laws. It is quite obvious that these pressures to persuade Iran to retreat from obtaining its legitimate rights follow from the war that has been imposed on us. However, as it has been repeatedly stated, the post of OPEC secretary general is Iran's right; it is concerned with Iran's prestige. Consequently, we will stand firm and use any means to stop them denying us this right.

We hope that friendly countries such as Libya and Algeria will demonstrate their cooperation in achieving Iran's objectives. Other countries, like Nigeria, Venezuela, and Indonesia, whose interests have been truly threatened by the reduction in the oil price, as well as a country like Ecuador — with a production of 150,000 barrels per day because it cannot produce more — we hope they will support Iran's proposal, so that we may regain the previous prices, as they were immersed in our martyrs' blood, for it was the blood of our martyrs that made it possible to reach that price. As Hasemi-rafsanjani stated yesterday during the Friday prayers, the Islamic Republic insists on this and it will stand firm.

[Unidentified questioner] Considering the budget presented to the Majlis by the government, is there any need to change Iran's quota in OPEC so that the oil revenues will meet the revenues forecast in the budget?

[Gharazi] This is entirely dependent on oil prices. If we succeed in persuading the member countries to fix the price at $34, it is quite natural that a slight change in the quota will follow. However, if this does not materialize, Iran will resort to any action to protect its revolution. [end recording]

Departs for Geneva Meeting

LD051129 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Oil Minister Gharazi, leading an Islamic Republic delegation, left Tehran to attend an OPEC oil ministers conference.

Before his departure, the oil minister told correspondents:—The main and fundamental issue in the Geneva session is to protest against the base price of $29 and then attempt to increase it to its previous price of $34. In connection with the election of a new OPEC secretary general, he said: It is our turn now, as it is our right to have it. Despite all the pressures exerted on us, we will not give up this right.

According to our correspondent, the meeting of OPEC oil ministers session is to start in Geneva on 7 December

Velayati Confers With Algerian, Libyan Envoys

LD040008 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Algerian Ambassador Adjal today met with Foreign Minister Velayati. At this meeting, the Algerian ambassador emphasized the expansion of relations between the two countries and confirmed the invitation extended by Algerian Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi to Velayati to visit Algeria. It was decided that Velayati will visit Algeria in the near future.

Sa'd Mujbir, secretary of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah People's Bureau in Tehran, also conferred this afternoon with Foreign Minister Velayati. They discussed improving relations between the two countries, Middle East issues, the crisis in Lebanon, the imposed war being waged by Iraq against Iran, the deeper and more extensive struggle against imperialism and Zionism, and ways to fight the conspiracies hatched by the United States in the region. At the meeting, the Libyan secretary announced his country's readiness to embark on any joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism and for the revival of the steadfastness front with Iran's participation.

Departs for ICO Conference

GF050645 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] According to our correspondent, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for Dhaka at 0600 this morning, heading a group to take part in the 14th conference of Islamic foreign ministers in Bangladesh. He was escorted to the airport by a group of Foreign Ministry officials and the charge d'affaires of the Bangladesh Embassy. Before leaving Tehran, Velayati told our reporter: In this conference the important happenings of the Islamic world will be discussed by the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries and the new head of this organization will be elected.

Ayatollah Montazeri Speaks on Role of Ulema

GF021634 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Qom, Dec. 2, IRNA — Ayatollah Montazeri has called on members of the ulema to refrain from any tendency towards self-indulgence, luxury and extravagance in everyday life and check themselves against undue love and pursuit of material comfort.

The Ayatollah who was speaking to a group of visiting leaders of Friday mass prayers from Tehran Province here Thursday recalled Imam Ali's (as) abstemious habits and his austere practices as a mode of living by a typical leader of an Islamic society, reminding that the members of the ulema are typically lower sector of the society and that as such today they must not enjoy more material comfort than the people in villages.

He also suggested that in the event of disparity between leaders of Friday mass prayers and any of the administering officials, rather than exploiting the Friday mass prayers as a forum for discrediting opponents or inciting public censorship upon them, the leaders of the Friday prayers must first seek to solve differences by official channels.

The Ayatollah also urged the group of the visiting ulema as well as other members of the ulema to devote sufficiently enough time to their daily studies rather than letting themselves be absorbed in the conduct of tasks which must be typically performed by administrative officials.

Governor-general of Semnan Province and other officials from the province were also present in the meeting

Montazeri Meets With Islamic Republic Party Members

LD041437 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 4 December carries a 10-minute report on a meeting between members of the Executive Council of the Islamic Republic Party and Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom on 3 December.

Montazeri begins with detailed comments about the party: "From the start, I have supported an Islamic organization. When I was received by the imam in Paris, he remarked to the effect that all Moslems constitute an Islamic party. Needless to say, the question of an Islamic Republic Party had not yet been raised. What the imam meant to convey was the need to attack existing political parties throughout the world. I told him then: Sir, if we are to have a government to run the country, then there will be a need for some kind of organization, for one simply cannot accomplish such a task just like that."

Montazeri then recalls his part in the formation of the Islamic Republic Party. He stresses the need to give priority to quality over quantity, citing as a bad example the ruling political party under the former regime. He reiterates the need to make use of committed and genuine Muslims in the affairs of the country, even if they are not members of the Islamic Republic Party. As a condition for membership in the party, he says: "You must take extreme care in selecting members who are to serve at the higher echelon of the party or who will be responsible for the party's organizations in the provinces. These people must be professing Muslims, they must adhere to the principle of the Islamic Revolution and clerical rule and they must enjoy social morality and attraction." Montazeri then stressed that any political party is simply a means rather than an end in itself, briefly alluding to the U.S. Democratic and Republic Parties as a means for members to come to power and satisfy their own ambitions.

Montazeri advises making greater use of qualified individuals in running the country, regardless of their political affiliations. He warns the party against self-centered and egotistical approaches. Regarding the need for founding members of the Islamic Republic Party to pay more attention to it, the report cites Ayatollah Montazeri as saying: "I wish to ask [Majlis Speaker] Hashemi-Rafsanjani and [President] Khamene'i through you gentlemen to attend to the party more. These two eminent figures, who were among the five original members of the party and who have managed to escape the sword, should also take into account the conditions of the provinces in addition to cities and other places. You must take into account the people's wishes in these places as

well as the status of the clergymen there. You must consider the position of the Friday imam. In addition to being religious and committed to the revolution, the individuals you intend to select for the party in these places must also be publicly attractive. Their temperament must be of the sort which would not stop them from attracting people. Otherwise, the party will be harmed, and the revolution will also be harmed. Such practices would culminate in turning people away from these two great figures who were among the founders of the party and who have had, and still have, prominent roles in the revolution. We do not want to see an immature young man doing something in a town and these two eminent figures then paying the consequences for it. Therefore, my request to all you gentlemen, particularly Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is to attend to the party more than before. They should pay more care to the activities of individuals."

Montazeri concludes by saying that people must not be discouraged by criticism and that this also applies to Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Free Voice of Iran Comments

GF041954 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The power struggle has intensified in the ruling clique of mullahs in Iran. The disagreements has reached such levels that the sole party in the regime of Khomeyni, the facist Islamic Republican Party [IRP], is on the verge of a breakup. Following the intensification of the power struggle among the various factions of the regime and especially within the facist IRP which stems from the party leadership cadre,Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri during severe criticism of party officials reminded them that the party is a tool and not the goal. The "grand canonist" thus reminded the members of the facist IRP, who also form the leadership of the regime, that they have taken the wrong step, have lost their goal and grabbed the tool instead. The sole "grand canonist" of the Islamic Republic, while inviting the leaders of the IRP to forgo disgreements and miunderstandings, advised them to choose a way to achieve their goals.

Akhbar Rafsanjani and Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i are those who are heading the two opposing factions of the regime and are using the facist IRP as a means of reaching power. The remarks of the sole "grand canonist" of the Islamic Republic,Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, which was broadcast by the disgraced Voice of the Islamic Republic today, shows the extent of worry of the future imam of the mullahs of Iran about the intensification of disagreements within the leadership clique and its sole public forum, the IRP.

Montazeri's remarks unveiled secrets and proved that the printing of his photos on pasturized bottles of milk [sketch of a cow's head] is justified!

TEHRAN TIMES Responds to GCC Summit Appeals

GF041026 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] The six-nation Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) wound up three days of summit talks yesterday with an appeal to Iran to avoid blocking free navigation in the Hormuz oil tanker route and respond to international calls for an end to its war with Iraq. The PGCC also urged Palestinian guerilla factions to cease their fighting in northern Lebanon in accordance with an agreement reached Tuesday by PGCC and North African mediators.

Editor: We wish that our neighboring countries might have paid attention toward the just stand of Iran. All the world knows that it was Iraq not Iran who started war.

Was it not the religious duty of the Sheikhs to condemn the aggressor?

But the world also knows that our neighbors will not do so. Why? Because they were accomplices of Saddam and they have admitted to paying $40 billion to finance, while it is only too well known that the actual sums exceed $84 billion or more to the dictator. [sentence as published]

We will urge our neighbors to stop the policy of "appeal to Iran and petrodollars to Saddam."

No dollar, no pound and no franc can save Saddam now, his time is over. He has to go and he will go.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,561

LD021718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,561 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, the victorious combatants of Islam, especially the antiaircraft defense units and the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, maintaining their alertness, continued their defense of the areas under their protection while foiling all ground and air aggressions and movements of the Saddamist mercenaries.

On the Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, and Marivan fronts, our combatants, using heavy artillery and other long-range weapons, pounded enemy infantry and artillery positions and their supply routes and succeeded in destroying a number of enemy personnel positions and in silencing the artillery fire of the Saddamist forces. On the Marivan front, five vehicles belonging to the Iraqi forces were destroyed and two ammunition depots were set ablaze and completely demolished.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, our forces guarded their defensive positions, pounded enemy artillery positions,and inflicted damages and casualties. Our forces kept a check on the troop movements of the Iraqi forces by dispatching patrol groups. The damages sustained by the enemy on these fronts include the complete destruction of three vehicles belonging to the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist forces.

On the southern fronts, sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy arms fire continued and the combatants of Islam, while consolidating their defensive positions, opened fire on positions and areas where enemy units were stationed, sent out patrol groups, and set up observation posts, thus keeping an eye on the enemy movements; troop movements of the Saddamist forces were stopped.

In the exchanges of fire on the Abadan fronts, the combatants of Islam opened fire on enemy fortifications and positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud and killed or wounded a number of enemy personnel. Our forces stopped the fire of the Saddamist forces and destroyed nine heavy and light weapon emplacements and one ammunition depot by setting fire to them. The city of Abadan yesterday received some damage as a result of the fire of the Saddamist forces.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,562

LD031802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,562 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Expressing condolences on the anniversary of the death of the great prophet, peace be upon him and his descendents, and the martyrdom of Imam Hasan, peace be upon him, here is a summary of the combat operations carried out during the past 24 hours:

Exchanges of fire continued yesterday on most northwestern fronts of the country. The supremacy of our forces' fire stopped enemy troop movements and silenced their artillery fire. At 0100 yesterday, an enemy unit supported by artillery fire launched an attack in Sheykh (Gezneshin) heights, but was confronted by our forces' speedy reaction. The Iraqi forces retreated after suffering some casualties.

Exchanges of fire continued on the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, but the intensity of fire was greater on the Sumar fronts. In the region opposite Qasr-e Shirin, our combatants opened fire on enemy supply routes, damaging several enemy vehicles. The minimum number of casualties sustained by the enemy on these fronts was 12. Exchanges of fire continued yesterday on the southern fronts where our combative forces opened fire to defend the regions under their protection. In the Nahr-e (Anvar) region, our forces foiled infiltrating operations by enemy combat and reconnaissance groups and inflicted casualties on them. During the past 24 hours, the fire of the antiaircraft defense units and tactical moves by the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran repelled enemy air raids on several western and southern border regions. Abadan City yesterday came under sporadic heavy weapons fire by Saddamist mercenaries; three houses were damaged.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,563

LD041745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,563 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Greetings to the pure souls of the martyrs of the fronts of the battle between right and wrong who, by sacrificing their pure blood, covered every page of the history of our Islamic homeland with gold and whose unprecedented self-sacrifices are an honor for our Islamic people. Greetings to our proud combatants who create sagas for humanity. May your battle be victorious and your victory everlasting.

We announce the results of our dear combatants' efforts for the information of our dear compatriots. Yesterday, sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on the northwestern fronts; it was more intense in the (Kodu) Heights region. On those fronts, the combatants of Islam brought enemy positions, supply points, and motorized columns under artillery and heavy weapons' fire, killing a considerable number of enemy personnel and destroying 15 light and heavy vehicles, a 106-mm gun, a jeep carrying personnel and an ammunition dump and also shattering large sections of the enemy's positions.

In the Marivan operational zone, our forces silenced enemy fire with artillery fire, set on fire some of their advance positions, and destroyed several vehicles belonging to the Saddamists.

On the western fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire continued; it was more intense in the Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin sector. On that front, our victorious combatants pounded enemy infantry, tank, and artillery positions, killing 14 Saddamist mercenaries and injuring 18. Enemy losses on those fronts included the destruction of more than four trenches, an ammunition dump, and a vehicle.

On the southern fronts, our combatants continued their defensive operations, strengthened their defensive positions, despatched patrol groups, and opened defensive fire, thus preventing enemy moements to a considerable extent. Our forces silenced enemy artillery and heavy weapons' fire and destroyed a number of enemy positions and their crews.

Exchanges of fire continued yesterday in the Arvand Rud region; our forces returned enemy fire and silenced enemy fire. Our forces destroyed more than nine Saddamist trenches and foxholes, most of which were mortar sites or 106-mm gun emplacements. Several enemy personnel were killed.

Iraqi forces yesterday brought parts of Abadan under fire, causing damage to a number of houses.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Iraqi Airplanes Violate Khuzestan Airspace
GF041712 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Ahvaz, Dec. 4, IRNA — Two Iraqi aggressor aircraft violated the air space of Khuzestan Province at 18:12 hours local time Saturday. The airplanes flew at a relatively high attitude over the cities of Ahvaz and Masjid-e Soleyman but were forced to flee by the anti-aircraft defence units before carrying out their missions.

Shelling of Iraqi Civilian Areas Denied
LD041132 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec 3 IRNA - The Iranian Government said here today that the Baghdad regime has falsely charged the Islamic Republic of shelling civilian areas in Iraq.

It said Baghdad has levelled such charges against the Islamic Republic in order to justify its intended shelling of residential quarters in Iran as a retaliatory measure. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today that the Baghdad regime is only trying to manipulate the world public opinion against the Islamic Republic where as in point of fact, "due to attachment to the Islamic dictates" Iran has not and will not ever attack residential quarters in Iraq.

He said this is the umpteenth time the ruling regime in Iraq is staging a scenario merely to prepare the ground for just another crime upon civilian people in Iran. He said in the past each and every time the Islamic Republic sensed an intended attack by Iraq upon living quarters in Iran, it notified international organizations of such impending attacks, but that "unfortunately, because of negligence and absence of any kindering measures by such organizations each time the Iraqi regime has caused the death of men, women and children in Iran, he said the last of such attacks was one upon Piruz School in Behbehan which took the lives of 80-plus Iranian students just a few weeks ago. [sentence as received]

The foreign ministry spokesman said also that it is time Saddam realized that by continuing such crimes in Iran, he would not be able to change the course of the war, or cause the Iranians to waver in their determination for continuing a legitimate defence.

Adviser Discusses Visits to Syria, Lebanon
GF041252 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Upon his return to the country and after inspecting parts of northern Lebanon, presidential adviser Mostafa Mirsalim, who led an Iranian delegation to Syria and Tripoli, Lebanon said: We announce our total readiness and wholehearted intention to solve the problems in this region.

He expressed his hope that these efforts will result in the unity and cohesion of the Islamic forces in the region against Zionism and the Phalangist forces.

Brother Mirsalim referred to his inspection of Ba'labakk which was shelled by the planes of the entity which usurped Jerusalem and the French planes and described the morale of the residents as very high.

Referring to his inspection of the Syrian town Al-Qunaytirah which has been destroyed, he described the Zionist entity's crimes against this town as similar to the crimes committed by the Saddam regime against Islamic Iran.

Radio Iran Views Dispute on Al-Asad Treatment
GF041724 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] According to a report, the family of Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian security service are at odds about whether he should be taken to a hospital in Europe. Apparently, the family of the Syrian dictator want to have him taken to a modern hospital in Switzerland. On the other hand, Syrian security officials — the organization is headed by Al-Asad's brother — are against this request since they believe that in a Swiss hospital or in one in any Western European country it would be impossible to guarantee his safety. It would be almost certain that one or another opposition group would attempt to kill the Syrian dictator Al-Asad.

We should note that Hafiz al-Asad has not been seen in public for 20 days now and it is not yet clear whether he is in a coma or suffering from a heart attack.